

## Area

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Decennial Census.

**Definition:** This indicator gives area, in square miles, as of April 1, 2000.

**Limitations:** Area measurements are derived from calculations performed on a geographic base file (the Census Bureau's TIGER file), and not by direct measurement. The accuracy of any area measurement is limited by the accuracy inherent in (1) the location and shape of the various boundary information in the TIGER database, (2) the location and shapes of the shorelines of water bodies in that database, and (3) rounding affecting the last digit in all operations that compute and/or sum the area measurements.

**Data Detail:** **Total Area** is the sum of total land area plus total water area. **Total Water Area** figures include inland, coastal, Great lakes, and territorial water. **Inland water** consists of any lake, reservoir, pond, or similar body of water that is recorded in the U.S. Census Bureau's geographic database. It also includes any river, creek, canal, stream, or similar feature that is recorded in that database as a two dimensional feature (as opposed to being represented as a single line). The portions of the oceans and related large embayments—such as the Chesapeake Bay—that belong to the United States are classified as **coastal water**. Rivers and bays that empty into these bodies of water are treated as inland water from the point beyond which they are narrower than one nautical mile across.

### **For More Information:**

More information about 2000 Decennial Census geography is available at the U.S. Bureau of the Census website: <http://www.census.gov>. Of particular relevance is the PDF document titled "Appendix A — 2000 Census Geographic Terms and Concepts."

Cooper Center contact information for general questions about this indicator:  
Michael A. Spar, Ph.D.  
[mas6g@virginia.edu](mailto:mas6g@virginia.edu)  
(804) 371-0202